

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Locust Lawn

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number State Road 1422

☒ not for publication

city, town Oxford

☒ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC

county Granville

code 077

zip code 27565

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private

☐ public-local

☐ public-State

☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☐ building(s)

☒ district

☐ site

☐ structure

☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

8

2

1

11

Noncontributing

6 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

6 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville

County, North Carolina

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

William S. Rain, Jr.
Signature of certifying official

1-29-88
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwellingAgriculture/Subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls weatherboardroof metalother woodbrick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Section number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

Now located just beyond the northern reaches of the town of Oxford, the former plantation Locust Lawn still retains its Greek Revival style main house, gracious expanses of lawn and numerous bright leaf era outbuildings, as well as a family cemetery holding, among its markers, that of the plantation's original owner. Finely articulated, at its front block and original rear ells and both inside and out, the main house is one of the largest, handsomest and most intact dwellings surviving in Granville County from the plantation era. It has been little altered through the years and, although unoccupied since the early 1980s, is in good condition.

Locust Lawn was built during the plantation era in a two-story, T-shaped configuration, the spaciousness of which was bolstered by a brick-walled basement and a one-story, attached, rear kitchen wing. Its three-bay wide, front facade is shaded at its center bay by a porch that retains its original, squared, fluted columns and cornice. A matching fluted motif adorns the front block's two-story tall cornerposts as well. Both front block and centered, rear, two-story ell terminate in exterior, stuccoed, brick chimneys and are capped by low hipped roofs. Their six-over-six windows also share the same crossetted surrounds. Beaded weatherboards sheath the entire structure, even the one-story kitchen ell that juts off the east side of the main, two-story ell. The simple rectilinear surrounds, box cornices and patternboards of this small ell, coupled with its beaded siding, indicate that it was an original part of the dwelling. An open porch that once abutted the east side of the two-story main ell, serving it and the kitchen, was enclosed in the early twentieth century. A brick-walled entrance, set behind the chimney of the east side of the front block, still leads to that block's basement. The entrance porch railing and porch roof appear to be twentieth century replacements of the original railing and roof.

The inside of the one-room deep, front block is entered through paired, single-paneled doors that are enframed within fluted posts and lintels, cornerblocks and a multi-paned transom and sidelights. The two rooms on each floor of this block are divided by wide hallways. The downstairs front hallway is decorated with molded baseboards, picture rails, wood-grained two-panel doors, and fluted surrounds accented by bull's-eye cornerblocks. To its rear is a second, separate, transverse hallway, finished in similar fashion, that contains the stairway. The downstairs rooms to either side of the front hall, and that to the rear of the stair hall, are finished in much the same

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fashion as the halls, with the addition of fancier, crossetted surrounds at the west parlor mantel and doorway.

Certainly built at the same time as the first floor of the dwelling, the upstairs rooms of the front block and main ell were nonetheless outfitted in a less up to date, but still refined, fashion. Their wood-grained doors are formed of six panels, not two, and their fluted surrounds, lacking the accent of cornerblocks, are simply mitered at their upper edges. A window arrangement found elsewhere in Greek Revival style houses in the county - a central sash window flanked by narrow, in this case functional, sash sidelights - lights the upstairs front hall. Other than the addition of a kitchen and bathrooms, the house's interior has been little touched since its construction and its integrity remains intact.

Though no longer in crops, the property retains many of the early twentieth century outbuildings that once served the house ["B" on attached sketch map] and its extensive fields of bright leaf tobacco. These include six log tobacco barns dating from the early twentieth century, two with their V-notched construction exposed [E and H], two covered with board and batten siding [J and K] and two with their integrity disturbed by shells of sheet metal [G and I]. They are joined by two early twentieth century frame barns [L and N], an early twentieth century frame corncrib [M], and four later built, non-contributing outbuildings - two substantial, open equipment sheds [D and F], a concrete block barn [O] and a long frame chicken barn, sided with asphalt, stretched to the house's rear [A].

A further site and building, older than the bright leaf era outbuildings, contribute to the integrity and historical significance of Locust Lawn. To the main house's west stands a deteriorating dwelling built - judging from its mortise and tenon frame, large stone chimney and beaded weatherboards - in the mid-nineteenth century [P]. Now abandoned, it was perhaps originally an overseer's house. To the main house's east is a family cemetery [C], protected by a chain link fence, that includes the tall, marble, urn-capped marker of Armistead Ravenscroft Burwell, Sr., the property's original owner. He died in 1867, but the Victorian marker appears to have been erected later in the nineteenth century.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1850s-1937

Significant Dates

1850s

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

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Section number 8 Page 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Graciously sited well back from the road amidst wide swathes of lawn, numerous cedars and a few surviving locusts, Locust Lawn is one of the most finely finished, spacious and intact Greek Revival style dwellings in Granville County. Its refined finish exemplifies the Greek Revival at its best in the county, from its crossetted surrounds and fluted columns and cornerposts outside, to its wood-grained doors, rare transverse stair hall and ornate post and lintel surrounds and mantels inside. (See associated Property Type 2 - Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings) This intact finish, coupled with a mid-nineteenth century, former overseer, slave or tenant house, and a family cemetery that includes the remains of the property's builder, vividly evokes the plantation era during which the former plantation was established. (See associated Historic Context 1 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865, and associated Property Type 6 - Outbuildings) Viewed with the many log tobacco barns and other outbuildings which stretch to its fore, rear and sides, the main house and its grounds are also significant as representative of the bright leaf tobacco era in the county. (See associated Historic Context 2 - Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937) They clearly show the handsome style of life the large growers of the region's supreme crop could maintain during the latter third of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth. The property has been in use as a traditional bright leaf tobacco farm within the past 50 years; its period of significance has been assigned a closing date of 1937, however, because it has not achieved exceptional importance within the past half century.

Armistead Ravenscroft Burwell, Sr. (1820-1867), built his substantial plantation house between 1850 and 1860, during a decade in which his fortunes rose precipitously. In 1850 he was living in a hotel or boarding house in Henderson in present day Vance County, then part of Granville, an unmarried merchant with neither house nor slave and an estate valued at a mere \$1,100. By the federal census of 1860, however, he had moved to the Oxford District where Locust Lawn is located and set up life, according to the phraseology of the census, as a "farmer." (There are no deeds indexed in county records that show Burwell acquiring the property.) His wealth and the fine mansion he built suggest that the term "planter" would have been more appropriate, for his real estate was valued at \$14,408 and his personal estate at \$37,600, much of this probably represented by the 42 slaves he owned, crowded into eight houses. No longer

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single, he had a wife 11 years his junior, the former Bettie Norman, three sons - Thomas, Will and Issac - and a daughter named Sallie. Whether his success stemmed from his abilities as a merchant, or solely from family money - Bettie's father, Thomas, bequeathed them 21 slaves in 1853 and the Burwell family was quite wealthy as well - is not known. In any event, his material satisfactions were short-lived, for he died but two years after the end of the Civil War. With his wife and some of their children, he is buried in the overgrown family cemetery still part of Locust Lawn's extensive grounds. The former plantation remained in the family until 1902, when it was sold by William Spottswood Burwell to Louis Delacroix [Deed Book 55, Page 417]. Purchased in 1920 from Delacroix's widow, Mary, by large local landowners W. T. Yancey and S. M. Watkins [Deed Book 77, Page 89], it is now owned by Louise Watkins and her children.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Correspondence with Frank Hielema (Burwell family descendant), February, 1986

Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

United States Manuscript Censuses. Microfilm located at the Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 16 acres

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

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☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian

organization Granville County-Oxford Historic Survey date 8/17/87

street & number P.O. Box 1556(State Historic Pres. Office) telephone 919-693-1491

city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	715160	4024950	F	17	715010	4024620
B	17	715090	4024950	G	17	715270	4024580
C	17	715090	4024830	H	17	715260	4024660
D	17	715000	4024820	I	17	715180	4024660
E	17	715060	4024690	J	17	715740	4024200

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A: 17 715160 40244950 on the USGS polygon, where the tree line turns from the north to the west, continuing in a straight line west approximately 550 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point B: 17 715090 4024950 on the polygon, where the tree line turns south. Continuing in a straight line south approximately 325 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point C: 17 715090 4024830 on the polygon, where the tree line turns west. Continuing in a straight line west approximately 275 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point D: 17 715000 4024820 on the polygon, where the tree line turns south. Continuing in a straight line south approximately 550 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point E: 17 715060 4024690 on the polygon, where the tree line turns southwest. Continuing in a straight line southwest approximately 300 feet to point F: 17 715010 4024620 on the polygon, where the tree line meets the north side of State Road 1422. Continuing east approximately 1150 feet, along the north side of State Road 1422 to point G: 17 715270 4024580 on the polygon, where the tree line meets the north side of State Road 1422. Continuing north in a straight line approximately 50 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point H: 17 715260 4024660 on the polygon, where the tree line turns northwest. Continuing northwest in a straight line approximately 200 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point I: 17 715180 4024660 on the polygon, where the tree line turns northeast. Continuing northeast in a straight line approximately 75 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point J: 17 715740 4024200 on the polygon, where the tree line turns north. Continuing north in a

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straight line approximately 950 feet, along the edge of the woods, to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 16 acres that include the dwelling, outbuildings, fields and cemetery that are historically associated with the property, maintain historic integrity, and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated for the National Register. The remainder of the property has been excluded because it is not known with certainty to be historically associated with the house, or because it is now woodland and is no longer used for farm production. In the latter case the land use has substantially changed so that it no longer contributes to the historic integrity or historic significance of the property as a plantation era or bright leaf era farm.

The northern boundary from UTM points A to B includes the dwelling to its south and excludes woodland to its north. The western boundary from UTM points B to C, C to D, D to E, and E to F includes the outbuildings, dwelling, and fields to its east and excludes woodland to its west. The southern boundary from UTM points F to G includes the outbuildings and fields to its north and excludes property not known with certainty to be historically associated with the house to its south. The eastern boundary from UTM points G to H, H to I, I to J and J to A includes the outbuildings and cemetery to its west and excludes woodland to its east.

Contributing Buildings:

- B - "Locust Lawn"
- E and H - Bright leaf era, log tobacco barns
- J and K - Bright leaf era, board and batten tobacco barns
- L - Bright leaf era, frame barn and stables
- N - Bright leaf era, frame barn
- P - Mid 19th century, mortise and tenon, former tenant house

Contributing Sites:

- C - Family cemetery

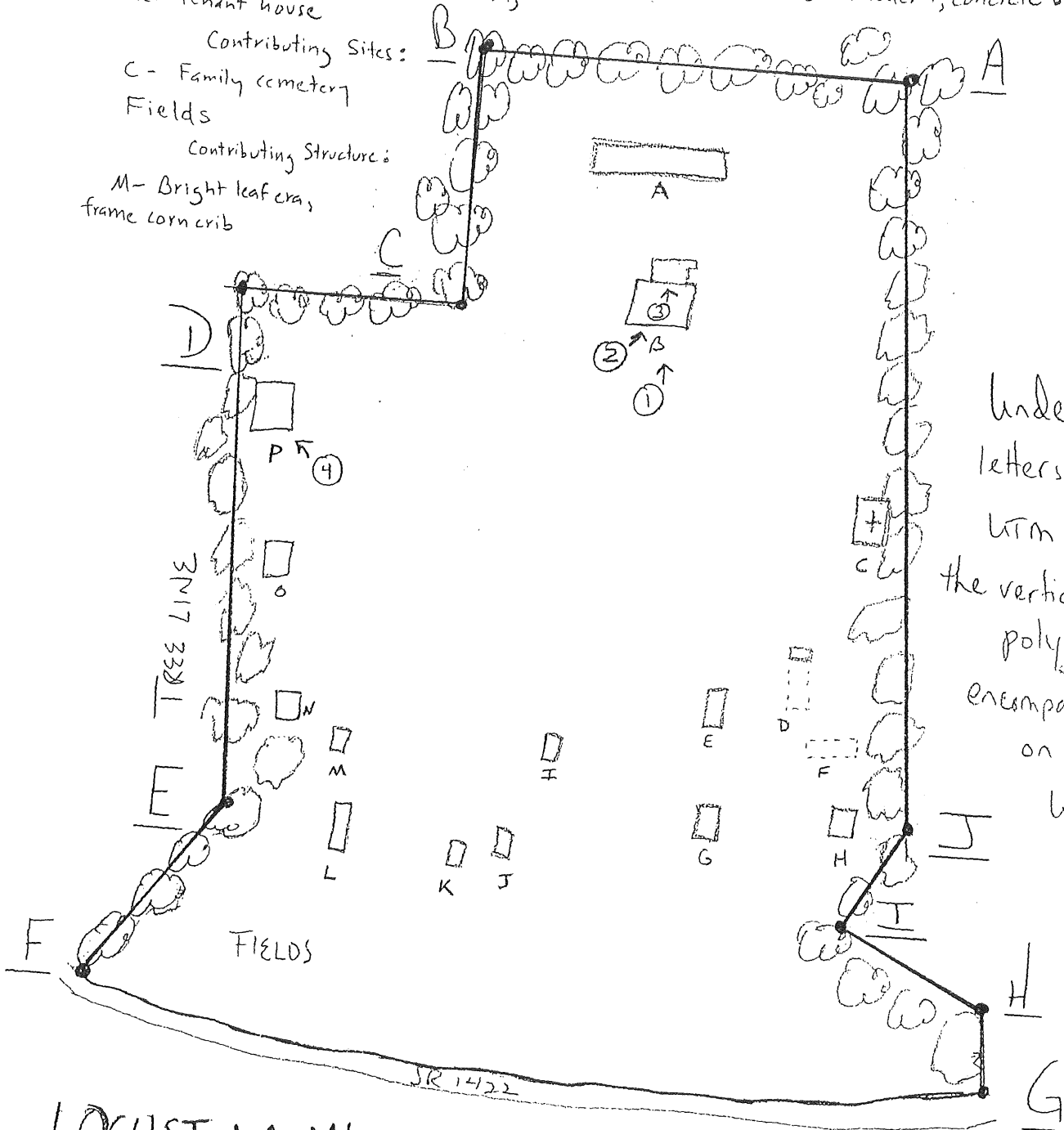
Fields

Contributing Structure:

- M - Bright leaf era, frame corn crib

Non-Contributing Buildings:

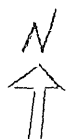
- A - 20th century, asphalt sided chicken barn
- D and F - Large, open, 20th century, frame tobacco barns
- G and I - 20th century, metal covered, tobacco barns
- O - Modern, concrete block barn



Underlined capital letters represent the UTM references for the vertices of the polygon drawn to encompass the property on the accompanying USGS map.

LOCUST LAWN

Granville County, North Carolina



Approx scale 1" = 200"

Approx 16 acres

drawn by Patricia Esperon, March, 1987

